

## BACK TO PEKIN

The Chinese Court Is Preparing to Resume Its Old Place.

The Dowager Empress Is Making a Desperate Effort to Maintain Her Fallen Prestige.

Minister Conger Creates a Sensation by Giving a Dinner Which Caused Talk.

Pekin, Dec. 30.—A party of Manchurian princes, including Prince Su, collector of taxes on goods entering Peking, have started to meet the Chinese court. Prince Su intends to prove his claim to be sent as an envoy to Great Britain upon the occasion of the coronation of King Edward. The dowager empress is making vigorous efforts to assert herself before the Chinese populace, with a view of retrieving the prestige lost by her during the last few years. The program for the court's return to Peking provides that the emperor shall precede the dowager empress to this city in order that he may be enabled to meet her with great honors at the station when she arrives. The ministers of the foreign powers at Peking have agreed that when the Chinese court returns here, if they are merely invited to dine with the Tsung Li Yamen as heretofore instead of with the Chinese emperor in the palace, as was recently stipulated, that they will all refuse the invitation.

Two thousand additional Chinese troops entered Peking last Friday. The Austrians have mounted two large guns upon the fortifications surrounding their legation. The other foreign legations keep their guns concealed. Although the British are well supplied with artillery and the Germans can occasionally be seen drilling on their glacis with field and rapid fire guns the Americans, who hold the crucial position at the Cham-Men gate, are not supplied with artillery. With the approval of American Minister Conger, Major Robertson of the Ninth Infantry, commanding the legation guard, applied to the war department for two guns. This application was refused because when the department consulted with Mr. Rockhill, special commissioner of the United States, here, on the matter the latter replied that artillery was not needed and that

the action on the part of Russia is causing disputes between that country and the foreign consuls at New Chungking. Considerable sensation has been caused in Chinese official circles by a dinner given at his residence by United States Minister Conger and which was attended by the leading officials of the Chinese foreign office. Among the officials present were Ma Tung, a former Boxer leader, and Wang Wen Shao, one of the Chinese plenipotentiaries. The dinner was attended by several American ladies. It was formerly the custom for prominent Chinese officials never to enter a foreign legation except upon the most formal occasions, while the meeting of foreign ladies socially would have been considered as degrading as would the associating with Chinese women upon the same footing. This event is significant of the progressive tendency of today which has recently been manifested in many ways.

Denmark Slow in Acting.  
Washington, Dec. 30.—There have been no recent developments of importance in the matter of the proposed sale of the Danish West Indies to this government, negotiations for which various times have been carried on between the United States and Denmark. The United States has defined its position very clearly as to the terms under which it will purchase the islands, but apparently through the inability of the Danish government to reach a determination to close the deal, the negotiations so far have failed of conclusion. If any request looking to an arrangement for a plebiscite is in contemplation by the Copenhagen government, its wishes in this respect have not yet been communicated to the state department.

Rosebery Leaves His Party.  
London, Dec. 30.—The Daily News, a Liberal organ, admits that Lord Rosebery has declined to act with the Liberal party, and although the paper regrets his voluntary severance from this party, it thinks it well that the air has been cleared and that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is more firmly installed in the leadership.

Boers Liberate Prisoners.  
London, Dec. 30.—The war office has received a dispatch from Lord Kitchener dated Johannesburg, saying that the British prisoners captured when the Boers successfully rushed Colonel Finner's camp at Zefontein Dec. 24, have been liberated and returned to Bethlehem.

He Found Out.  
New York, Dec. 30.—John Plover, a young wholesale liquor dealer of Middletown, N. Y., jumped from the Brooklyn bridge Sunday. He is still alive at a hospital. Plover told the doctors he simply wanted to see if he could make the jump and live.

## HE IS NERVOUS

Alleged Murderer of Nellie Cropley Fears Mob Violence.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 30.—Funeral services over the body of Miss Nellie Cropley, whose remains were discovered in the Pasquotank river after a search lasting several weeks, were held in the Methodist church here Sunday. The church was crowded to suffocation and the street leading to it was lined with people who uncovered as the hearse drove past. At the conclusion of the services the body was placed in the Sunday school room and was today taken by Andrew G. Cropley, uncle of the girl, to Brooklyn for burial. The citizens' committee investigating the affair acted as pall-bearers. The jail in which young Wilcox was arrested for alleged participation in the girl's death, lies only a stone's throw from the church. Wilcox knew the funeral was in progress, but showed no emotion and merely inquired if a large crowd was present. He is more nervous than at first, but retains much of the easy manner that has characterized him at all times. The guards were withdrawn from the jail Sunday and permitted to go home. Public sentiment is strong against Wilcox, but there is less talk of lynching and some of the ministers yesterday took occasion in their sermons to advise against mob violence. Wilcox absolutely refuses under advice of his attorney to say anything regarding the case. He asserts that the first statement made by him covers all he knows of the case. He is charged with the murder of the girl, and as the offense is not bailable in this state he will have to stay in jail pending a trial. It is believed he will waive an examination and permit his case to go direct to the grand jury next March.

Mendoza Takes to the Woods.  
Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 30.—General Luciano Mendoza, president-elect of the state of Carabobo, who rebelled against President Castro, marched on La Victoria and was said to have been defeated, and who was later reported to have escaped to the neighborhood of San Juan de Las Moros, is now said to have reached Villa de Cura, in the state of Miranda, where he was routed by the government troops. In company with a small number of followers he escaped and reached La Puerta, where he was again overtaken and defeated. Accompanied by only 40 men General Mendoza passed Ortiz in the state of Guayrico, Dec. 24. He was proceeding in the direction of mountains considered to be almost inaccessible.

Preacher Loses His Job.  
Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30.—Rev. James A. Heath, who is alleged to have been a divorcee from a woman, was deposed from the ministry and expelled from the Calvary Baptist church at a meeting of the congregation yesterday. The council of eight Baptist preachers to whom the matter was referred on Dec. 17, made its report, finding Heath guilty on three charges, and the report was unanimously adopted by the congregation. The action of the church not only excludes him from the pulpit, but withdraws the hand of fellowship from him as a member.

Trouble Not Over Yet.  
Colon, Colombia, Dec. 30.—The Colombian gunboat Boyaca left Panama early Sunday morning carrying troops to reinforce General Castro in the interior. The Colombian gunboat Gen. Pinzon is expected here shortly with 500 men from Barranquilla. She will return immediately to bring more men from that port. General Carlos Alban is confident that the Colombian government is able to defeat the revolutionists, notwithstanding the help he alleges they have received from Salvador.

Christmas Tree Causes Trouble.  
Chicago, Dec. 30.—A Christmas tree loaded with inflammable ornaments and candles caused a fire last night that destroyed the Alexander apartment building, a six-story structure, corner of Bowen and Cottage Grove avenues. The loss will exceed \$100,000. Twenty families lived in the building and the flames spread so rapidly that a score of persons barely escaped with their lives.

## DISPATCHES.

A water spout burst over the town of Salto, Uruguay, and persons are reported to have been drowned.

Heavy rains over the entire upper basin of the Tennessee river has produced a flood tide at Chattanooga.

John G. Farrell, a well known banker and one of the wealthiest men in that section is dead at Jacksonville, Ill., aged 72.

A street car collided with a number of freight cars attached to a switch engine at Birmingham, Ala., and one man was killed and two others injured.

Hugh J. Bonner is considering a proposition made by President Roosevelt and the war department to reorganize, on New York lines, the fire department in Manila.

Twenty Japanese are missing from Stevenson, B. C., and are supposed to have been killed or drowned in the destruction of a Japanese boat during the recent storm.

Postoffice Inspectors Holmes, of Cincinnati, and Fletcher, of Indianapolis, have gone to Havana, where they will be witnesses on behalf of the government in the Neely prosecution.

The contest at Columbus this week between the followers of Senator Foraker and Senator Hanna over the organization of the legislature has extended to factional circles elsewhere in Ohio.

Hon. J. L. McCurry of Washington has been selected by the president to represent the United States at Madrid on the occasion of the "coming of age" of the young king Alfonso XIII on May 17.

It is expected that efforts will be renewed before long for the settlement of the numerous controversies which have long existed between the United States and Great Britain, growing out of relations along the Canadian border.

## CHAFFEE'S DENIAL

The General Says There Is No Clash Between the Two Branches.

Alleged Friction Between the Civil and Military Authorities in the Philippines Is Scouted.

Acting Governor Wright Says the Same Thing, and All Seems to Be Serene.

Manila, Dec. 30.—General Chaffee, when questioned yesterday concerning the alleged friction between the civil and military authorities in the Philippine archipelago, said that absolutely no such friction existed and that perfect harmony prevailed between the two authorities. General Chaffee said



GENERAL LUKE E. WRIGHT.

that the only occasion when there had been anything approaching friction was in the matter of habeas corpus proceedings in the case of Oakley Brooks, and that upon this occasion a solution of the difficulty satisfactory to both authorities had been found. General Chaffee said that he and the members of the commission had at times differed in their views, but that these differences were of purely personal opinion. Governor Wright and the other commissioners were both of officially and socially extremely pleasant, and that he thought that the published statement of friction between the civil and military authorities here must have resulted from a misunderstanding of the facts of the case.

General Chaffee further explained that every time the slightest friction had arisen in the provinces between the two authorities he had invariably ordered the military to surrender to the civil authority, and said that the relations of these authorities throughout the provinces, where they frequently hold widely opposite opinions, would in no way interrupt the existing cordial relations at Manila, where both were working toward the same goal, namely the pacification and welfare of the Philippine archipelago. General Chaffee concluded by saying that he thought the prospect of subduing the insurrection in all places to be promising.

When Acting Governor Wright was questioned on this same matter he said: "Where men of sense are at the head of affairs there is not likely to be much cause for alarm or friction." Governor Wright has a great admiration for General Chaffee, whom he considers to be a man of sound common sense.

More Insurgents Surrender.  
Manila, Dec. 30.—Five insurgent officers and 175 men with six cannon, 51 rifles and 17 shotguns, surrendered Saturday to the American authorities on the island of Cebu. It is now believed this island is pacified.

MAY YET GET TOGETHER  
Chili and the Argentine Are Trying to Avoid Trouble.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Advises received by State, Infante, the Chilean charge, confirms the news already published that the Argentine minister at Santiago had informed the Chilean minister of foreign affairs that Argentina could not accept all the terms of the protocol heretofore signed for the settlement of the dispute and that some changes would be necessary in the instrument. Senor Infante's information from his government is that there is no foundation whatever for the statement that a change was made in the protocol by the Chilean minister of foreign affairs, but that on the contrary it was published as agreed upon between the representatives of the two governments. The understanding here is that no formal demand has as yet been made upon the Chilean government for a change in the terms of the protocol, but that the matter has simply been one of informal talk at Santiago. This being the case the hope is expressed that satisfactory arrangements may yet be reached.

Mr. Infante continues to express his firm conviction that there will be no war because of the present understanding. The government of Chili, he says, has been conducting the negotiations in a very amicable manner and he confidently looks for a peaceful solution of the difficulty.

American Suggestions Prevail.  
Mexico City, Dec. 30.—The committee on water transportation of the international American conference will present its report this week. The recommendations suggested are those of Hon. Volney W. Foster, the American member of the committee.

## SOMEBODY'S MISTAKE

Causes Loss of Life in a Chicago and Northwestern Wreck.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Four persons were killed and 18 injured, several of them possibly fatally, in a collision on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad Sunday at Malta, Ill., 60 miles west of Chicago. The trains in collision were the "Omaha Flyer," an eastbound passenger train, and an eastbound freight train. The wreck caught fire and two passenger coaches, one sleeping car and eight freight cars were burned and another sleeping car was partly burned. The injured were brought to St. Luke's hospital by special trains. Among the dead were George W. Rudy of Omaha, Western agent of the Kirk Soap company, and wife.

The freight train had taken a siding at Malta, but the train was longer than the siding and the freight locomotive protruded upon the main track behind the siding. The incoming train from the west was not stopped until the two locomotives were "cornered" at the switch, the passenger engine being thrown into the ditch and several coaches piling upon the wreck. The cars caught fire from the locomotive. A statement given out by officials of the railroad company explains that the switch at the end of the siding was opened through mistake, and that the responsibility probably lies with some member of the crew of the freight train. The statement places the company's property loss at about \$30,000.

The Derail Was Turned.  
Springfield, Ill., Dec. 30.—The southbound "Diamond Special" on the Illinois Central road was wrecked Sunday morning at 4 o'clock at Starline crossing, three miles east of here. Engineer McCormick of Clinton was injured on head and back, may be serious. Fireman John Wainwright of Clinton, slightly injured. The accident was caused by the derail of interlocker being turned against Central train.

Train Caught by Landslide.  
Lynchburg, Va., Dec. 30.—A landslide on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad near Reussen station, five miles south of Lynchburg on the James river branch yesterday, caused a wreck in which the engineer, conductor, fireman and baggageman of a passenger train were killed and several other persons injured, but none of them seriously. The slide was caused by washouts, due to the heavy rains.

Two Freight Wrecks.  
Opelika, Ala., Dec. 30.—Two freight wrecks occurred on the Western railway of Alabama Sunday night within 30 miles of each other on account of the heavy rains which flooded the tracks. One train was derailed and the property loss is heavy.

VALET MAKES BIG HAUL.  
Fifty Thousand Dollars Worth of Jewels Taken from Employer.

New York, Dec. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Thebaud of Madison avenue were robbed Sunday of jewelry worth \$50,000. This was corroborated by Mr. Thebaud himself at headquarters where in company with a member of the firm from whom most of the jewelry had been purchased, he gave to the police a partial list of the jewels taken. The valuables consisted in part of one pear-shaped diamond, said by Mr. Thebaud to be worth \$20,000, one pearl, weighing 44 grains, said to be worth \$15,000, and 300 small ornaments, making a total of about \$50,000. The robbery is said by the police and also by Mr. Thebaud to have been the work of a newly engaged valet who had been employed by Mr. Thebaud but two weeks. The valet is missing, and the butler, who recommended him, is under constant police surveillance.

An Old Mystery Cleared Up.  
Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 30.—The skeleton found in the steeple of a negro church near East Lake, was that of Winton White, a negro who is said to have shot a man several years ago and was afterward a fugitive from justice. A negro woman representing herself as Bettie Healey, once the wife of White, says the remains were undoubtedly those of her husband. She identified them by a peculiarity of the teeth, by the knives found beside the remains, and by the quilts which had evidently served as the man's bed.

Three Men Killed.  
Chicago, Dec. 27.—Three men were instantly killed and four injured by the falling of a steel crane at the American Bridge works yesterday afternoon.

Four Boys Go Through Ice.  
Bridgewater, N. S., Dec. 27.—Four boys who went skating on Lahave river broke through the ice and were drowned together.

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